(c) Yes, Sir. There are reports that the electrical items under Compulsory Certification are being sold in the market without ISI mark.

(d) The enforcement of various Quality Control Orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act, etc. lies primarily with the States/Unon Territories. The Government of India has been urging the State Governments3Union Territory Administrations from time to time for ensuring strict enforcement of these Quality Control Orders. The Bureau of Indian Standards also takes appropriate action, including raids,, whenever instances of misuse of ISI mark come to its notice.

Consumer movement in Andhra Pradesh

5233. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) what steps Government propose to take to strengthen the consumer movement in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government propose to coordinate an effort with Government of Andhra Pradesh to increase consumer education; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) The Government accords high priority to promoting a strong and broad based consumer movement in the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The Central Government is coordinating with all the States/UTs including the State of Andhra Pradesh for promoting consumer education. The Central Government has given financial assistance to the States to organise seminars, workshops, training programmes etc. for educating the consumers. It is also organising training programmes for the representatives of consumer organisations, government officials, non-judicial members of the State Commissions/District Forums etc. from all the States/UTs including the State of Andhra Pradesh. The Central Government also produces printed and audio-visual publicity material which is then sent to all the State Governments.

Quality Control Committee

5234. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a committee was constituted to advise the Bureau of Indian Standards on enforcement of quality control orders;

(b) if so, the recommendations of the committee; and

(c) what concrete steps now BIS propose to take to make available the quality products in the markets ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) The Bureau of Indian Standards in its last meeting held on 24-3-1994 decided to set up a Committee to advise the Bureau on ways and means for dealing with violations of Quality Control Orders as also misuse of ISI mark by unauthorised persons. The Committee has been constituted only recently and nominations from the concerned organizations represented on the Committee are being

obtained. Since the Committee is yet to have its first meeting, no recommendations of the Committee are available at present.

(c) BIS has developed standards for a large number of products. It is also operating the Certification Marks Scheme under which goods are certified for conformance to standards. Various measures including consumer awareness drive have been taken to improve the enforcement of this Scheme. The State Governments have also been requested to ensure strict enforcement of Quality Control Orders.

Demand for strict law against spurious and counterfeit products

5235. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is persistent demand to make the manufacture of spurious and counterfeit product a cognizable offence with severe punishment;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to being suitable changes in the laws to check the manufacture of such consumer items; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The subject matter of spurious and counterfeit products fall within the purview of a number of enactments like the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958, etc. There legislations are administered by a number of Ministries such as the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Ministry of Industry etc. The Ministry of Industry has introduced the Trade and Merchandise Marks (Amendment) Bill, 1993 in the Lok Sabha on 19-4-93 which provides for enhanced penalities for applying false trade maks, false trade descriptions, etc.

New Items under Consumer Protection Act

5236. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of items which have been covered under Consumer Protection Act at present :

(b) whether Government propose to include some more items under the Provisions of this Act; and

(c) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) All goods (as defined under the Sale of Goods Act, 1930) and services which are purchased or hired for a consideration are covered under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. However, goods purchased for resale or commercial purpose and services rendered free of charge or under a contract of perssonal services are not covered under the Consumer Protection Act.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no such proposal